

OPEN HOUSE

Kids Closet, Adrian Training School join forces

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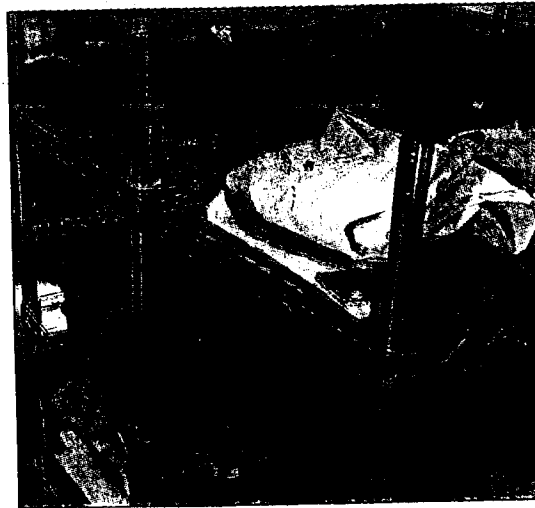
ADRIAN — A blossoming children's clothing donation program and the Adrian Training School have come together for the benefit of both, and their work will be showcased at an open house Sunday.

The Kids Closet program was started by 14-year-old Jarrett Patterson with the goal of helping a few of his Hudson classmates receive used clothing. It is now available for all Lenawee County schools.

The Adrian Training School recently converted an 800-square-foot building on its campus to house the expanding program, which it is using as a way to help the girls at the facility while allowing them to again interact with the community.

The open house will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday. ATS' Citizens Advisory Action Council organized the event so the community can see the progress that has been made since it converted to an all girls-facility.

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The Kids Closet, a children's clothing donation program, is collaborating with the ATS. An open house from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday will showcase both organizations.

Telegram photo by
Mike Calamungi

Closet

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The Kids Closet allows school personnel who may notice a student who could use a new outfit to contact Patterson, who then goes through the donated clothing items he has collected that fit the student's needs. The school official picks up the package of clothes and delivers it to the student.

Now with a new facility at the training school, the girls there will learn how to inventory clothes and understand the ordering, packaging and distribution process.

"This is a way for our girls to participate by giv-

ing back to the community," ATS deputy director Melvin Whitlow said.

Whitlow said no other training school in state has a program like this — a claim the school won't hold on to for long.

"There's no question something like this will catch on," Whitlow said. "It's a win-win for the training school and the community because of the interaction with both."

Whitlow said he hopes people will come out to tour the campus Sunday and even bring a clothing donation for the Closet with them if they wish.

Jae Guetschow, president of the CAAC, said it is important for the girls at the training school to have an opportunity to interact with residents again.

"That's been the success of the training school for all its years, to be connected to the community,"

he said.

Guetschow said the Kids Closet will be a great addition to the campus and will help both the girls at the training school and the students receiving the clothes.

"I think it's just the perfect match for us," Guetschow said. "When I first heard about it I thought it was a spectacular idea."

The Closet is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays for donations and for school officials to pick up their orders. The hours are from 5 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

To send a request, school officials can send an e-mail to Patterson and list the sex, age, clothing size and type of item needed, and he will have it ready by the next pick-up day.

To make a request, e-mail Jarrett Patterson at kids closet03@hotmail.com.